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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 /072 W
----------120343 160246Z /66
R 151408Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6948
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0512

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
SUBJECT: CAPE TOWN TOWNSHIPS QUIET ON SURFACE BUT MILITANTS CONTINUE ACTIVITY

REF: 77 CAPE TOWN 1575,

SUMMARY: MILITANTS IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS HERE HAVE, AS EXPECTED, BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN MOUNTING MASS PROTEST ACTIONS BUT HAVE CONTINUED EFFORTS TO INTIMIDATE BLACKS WHO ARE CONSIDERED SAG SUPPORTERS. SAG EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE FORMATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS HAVE MET WITH LITTLE SUCCESS TO DATE. END SUMMARY

1. REFTEL NOTED THAT IN WAKE OF OCT. 19 BANNINGS AND CONTINUED EFFORTS BY POLICE TO DISRUPT MILITANT ORGANIZATIONS IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS, PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL BOYCOTT, CONSUMER BOYCOTT OR OTHER MASS ACTION IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS HERE WERE REMOTE BUT THAT SPORADIC ATTACKS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS LIKELY TO CONTINUE. THIS HAS, IN FACT, PROVED TO BE THE CASE. EFFORTS BY THE "COMRADES," THE MILITANT STUDENT GROUP THAT LED LAST YEAR'S SCHOOL BOYCOTT, TO MOUNT MASS
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ACTIVITY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL AND HAVE LARGELY BEEN ABANDONED. HOWEVER, ATTACKS ON POLICE, TEACHERS AND OTHERS CONSIDERED TO BE SAG "COLLABORATORS" HAVE CONTINUED SPORADICALLY WITH RESULT THAT BLACK POLICEMEN RESIDENT IN GUGULETU HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN MOVED INTO SINGLE BLOCK OF FLATS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE PROTECTION TO THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES. MILITANTS HAVE THREATENED TO BURN

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DOWN ST. FRANCIS CULTURAL CENTER, A LARGE CATHOLIC CHURCH-OPERATED EDUCATIONAL CENTER THAT PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL TRAINING FROM ADULT LITERACY THROUGH SECONDARY SCHOOL UNLESS SCHOOL ABANDONS "BANTU" CURRICULUM REQUIRED BY BANTU EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SIZEABLE DONATION TO ST. FRANCIS FROM GERMAN CHURCH GROUP BEING DELAYED UNTIL ACCOMMODATION CAN BE REACHED WITH MILITANTS.

2. EFFORTS BY SAG TO PROMOTE SUPPORT FOR NEW COMMUNITY COUNCILS SCHEME IN CAPE TOWN TOWNSHIPS HAS BEEN LARGELY UNSUCCESSFUL TO DATE, DUE IN PART TO THREATS OF RETALIATION BY MILITANTS AGAINST ANY WHO MIGHT PARTICIPATE. EARLIER THIS YEAR SAG DROPPED THOUSANDS OF PAMPHLETS ON TOWNSHIPS TOUTING IDEA OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS. AT ONE STAGE, MORE CONSERVATIVE TOWNSHIP LEADERS WHO HAVE SET UP RUDIMENTARY ORGANIZATION TO DEAL WITH URBAN FOUNDATION ON SEVERAL PROPOSED COMMUNITY PROJECTS APPEARED TO BE LEANING TOWARD IDEA OF PARTICIPATION BUT HAVE LATELY SHOWN DISINCLINATION TO DO SO. WE UNDERSTAND SEVERAL OF THESE HAVE RECEIVED THREATS OF RETALIATION FROM THE MILITANTS.

3. IN SUM, PROSPECT FOR MASS ACTION IN TOWNSHIPS HERE CONTINUES TO BE REMOTE IN ABSENCE OF SOME DRAMATIC NEW DEVELOPMENT. MILITANTS RETAIN SOME SEMBLANCE OF ORGANIZATION, HOWEVER, AND WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCOURAGE MODERATE AND CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS FROM ANY ACTIVITY DEEMED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE SAG OR "THE SYSTEM."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EXTREMISTS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780116-0442
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780367/aaaacers.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAPE TOWN 1575
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3328481
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAPE TOWN TOWNSHIPS QUIET ON SURFACE BUT MILITANTS CONTINUE ACTIVITY
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/935ccec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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